

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 1. (original) A method for producing a stitch-bonded
2 material web by means of hydrodynamic needling, characterized in
3 that a material web consisting at least partly of metal fibers or
4 metal filaments is stitch-bonded and/or finished by means of
5 high-energy water jets to form a material web ready to use such as
6 cloth or the like.

1 2. (original) The method according to claim 1,
2 characterized in that the material web is formed as woven fabric at
3 least partly avoiding yarn formation from unspun metal fibers and
4 such a material web is exposed to this hydrodynamic needling for
5 finishing.

1 3. (original) The method according to claim 1,
2 characterized in that the material web is formed as woven fabric or
3 knitted fabric at least partly using spun yarns of metal fibers and
4 such a material web is exposed to this hydrodynamic needling for
5 finishing.

1 4. (previously presented) The method according to claim
2 1, characterized in that textile fibers are mixed in the material
3 web of metal fibers or filaments and both are together exposed to
4 the hydrodynamic needling for stitch bonding or finishing.

1 5. (previously presented) The method according to claim
2 1, characterized in that the material web consists of 100% metal
3 fibers or filaments and such a material web is exposed to the
4 hydrodynamic needling for stitch bonding or finishing.

1 6. (previously presented) The method according to claim
2 1, characterized in that the hydrodynamic needling is carried out
3 at a pressure >200 bar.

1 7. (previously presented) The method according to claim
2 1, characterized in that a woven fabric, knit fabric, knitted
3 fabric, stitch-bonded materials, stitch-bonded nonwoven,
4 needle-punched nonwoven as material web manufactured at least
5 partly of metal fibers or filaments are subjected to a water jet
6 treatment to modify properties such as, for example, post-stitch
7 bonding, density variation, smoothing, roughening etc.

1 8. (previously presented) The method according to claim
2 1, characterized in that metal fibre nonwovens with woven fabrics,
3 knit fabrics, knitted fabrics, stitch-bonded materials,
4 stitch-bonded nonwovens, needle-punched nonwovens etc. consisting
5 of 100% metal fibers but also of combinations of metal fibers and
6 textile fibers are combined to form composites by means of
7 hydrodynamic needling.

1 9. (previously presented) The method according to claim
2 1, characterized in that the water jet stitch bonding is followed
3 by a pressing and/or calibration process.

1 10. (original) A nonwoven characterized in that it
2 consists at least partly of unspun metal fibers or filaments and is
3 treated by means of hydrodynamic needling for stitch bonding.

1 11. (original) The nonwoven according to claim 1,
2 characterized in that it consists of 100% unspun metal fibers or
3 filaments and is treated by means of hydrodynamic needling for
4 stitch bonding.

1 12. (previously presented) The spunlace nonwoven
2 according to claim 10, characterized in that the metal fibers or
3 filaments are interlaced, entangled or hooked with one another or
4 into one another without forming meshes.

1 13. (previously presented) A spunlace nonwoven of metal
2 fibers according to claim 10, characterized in that the fibers to
3 be stitch-bonded consist of a homogeneous mixture of metal fibers
4 and textile fibers.

1 14. (previously presented) The spunlace nonwoven of
2 metal fibers according to claim 10, characterized in that the
3 fibers to be stitch-bonded are a component of laminated nonwovens
4 wherein the laminated nonwovens are composed of two or more layers.

1 15. (original) The spunlace nonwoven of metal fibers
2 according to claim 14, characterized in that the layers consist of
3 metal fibers or textile fibers or in turn of homogeneous mixtures
4 of metal fibers and textile fibers.

1 16. (previously presented) The spunlace nonwoven
2 according to claim 10, characterized in that no filamentous
3 material is present.

1 17. (previously presented) The spunlace nonwoven
2 according to claim 10, characterized in that thread material is
3 additionally worked in.

1 18. (previously presented) The spunlace nonwoven
2 according to claim 10, characterized in that additional fabrics
3 such as, for example, knitted fabric, knit fabric, needle-punched
4 nonwoven etc. consisting of metallic materials or textile fibrous
5 substances are worked in or attached laterally.

1 19. (previously presented) The spunlace nonwoven
2 according to claim 10, characterized in that the pore volume, the
3 pore size and the thickness is also varied by a pressing and/or
4 calibrating process following the water jet stitch bonding.

1 20. (previously presented) The spunlace nonwoven
2 according to claim 10, characterized in that it has perforations as
3 required according to a pattern.

21 - 22. (canceled)